

I N T E R

O F F I C E

# MEMO

To: FILE - 1600 N. FAIRWAY  
From: Gene Pabst *GP*  
Subject: PAINT THINNER SMELL IN SANITARY SEWER.  
Date: January 15, 1997

I received a call at 10:30 A.M. from a lady who lives in the 1600 block of North Fairway. She indicated that last night they had a strong smell of paint thinner in their home and they had called the Fire Dept. The Fire Dept. said that it was a strong sewer smell. Apparently, City Utilities also came out and they thought it was a strong sewer odor. This lady indicated that she thought it was paint thinner smell because her dad used to paint cars and she knew what paint thinner smelled like. She said that she wanted to let us know because she knew that paint thinner should not be in the sanitary sewer. I told her we would check it out. I also asked about any open drains. She said that they had the clean out off in the basement because they have a water problem in the basement and that they have to remove the clean out to let the water drain out. She said that the clean out was off last night. I told her that this needs to stay to protect them from sewer gas getting into their home. She said that she knew that and that it is normally on except when they are experiencing a water problem in their basement. She said that she thought that someone was dumping paint thinner down the drain and wanted to inform us of the situation.

Karen Chandler and I went to the intersection of Fairway Ave. and Division St. to check manhole 45, Wye Map M-20 SE. We checked this manhole with our explosion meter before opening the manhole cover. We obtained a 0% L.E.L. reading. We then opened the cover and could only smell a sewer odor. The area above this manhole that is served by the sanitary sewer is rather large since it serves the area West of Glenstone Ave. to Kearney St. and on the East side of Glenstone Ave. up to Blaine St. We will monitor this area in the future.